



The Arlington Advocate

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COMPANY

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ARLINGTON SINCE 1871

Route 2 bridge work is delayed

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

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BRIDGE, see page 2A.

RECYCLING ROUTE NEXT WEEK

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28 pages,
2 sections



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ADVOCATE PHOTO BY BRIAN SNYDER

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we're going to keep working at it until we get it right," said Town Manager Donald Marquis.

"I know that in certain areas it's going to be a delayed response (for emergency vehicles)," Fire Chief Perry Cayton said. He said the fire department received some calls complaining about plowing on Tuesday but no more than usual for such a large storm.

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He said numerous residents of Harvard Street parked their cars out on the street immediately after he plowed it, making it impossible for a second run, snow blowers threw much snow right back into the streets, unnecessary traffic slowed things up and people with their own plows destroyed any gains the town's plows may have made.

"He's making a mess out of the street I've been working on all day," Dodge said, pointing to a red Jeep that was plowing snow from a private driveway directly into the street.

There's plenty of heat in the truck but no AM/FM radio, just a CB with reports coming in from the "snow center" on Grove Street.

"After a while you get to talking to yourself," Dodge admitted with a laugh. He said breaks at the Public Works building often consist of quick eating of sandwiches or pizza instead of small talk.

Dodge said that some of the workers believe in a "cat's paw" theory that if snow falls on a certain date there will be many snow storms that season.

"I come to work when the phone rings. I don't know about that stuff," he said.

PLOWMAN, see page 4A.

Union: morale is low in wake of police suit

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While town officials say little or nothing about a police sergeant's lawsuit against two officers formerly under his command, police union leaders say it is hurting morale because it is characteristic of how officers' complaints are handled.

Officers Richard Jenkins and Lisa Chinal filed affidavits against Sgt. David McNamee claiming he harassed them based on their race and gender. McNamee later sued for defamation of character in a civil case that is now pending.

Union president Arthur Kelley said the administration's handling of the case was poor and harmful to more than just the two officers involved.

"There's a double standard. There's one set of rules for one group of people and there's another set of rules for management," Kelley said, claiming that alleged offenses by ranking officers are not investigated nearly as thoroughly as alleged offenses by the

rank and file.

He said not all of the allegations made against McNamee were investigated, making many patrolmen feel they don't get treated fairly.

Kelley said he and Officer Richard Femme met with police chief Eugene Del Gaizo on Dec. 28 to discuss other union grievances.

"We told him the animosity that exists in this police department is a split down the middle," he said, adding that Del Gaizo said little during the 30-minute meeting.

Femme said he agreed that the department is divided by a feeling of mistrust among the police officers.

"It's not really a comfortable feeling," he said. Femme said he was cited by McNamee for not wearing a traffic safety belt while directing traffic on a detail. He believes the citation is related to the union's support of Jenkins and Chinal, which includes coverage of their lawyers' fees.

Del Gaizo declined to comment on Femme's and Kelley's accusations.

MORALE, see page 2A.

RING-ING IN THE NEW YEAR



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY TESFAYE BIZUAYEHU

William and Mary Kelly of Baker Road will soon have three new additions to their family after three of their four children got engaged in rapid fire at the end of last year. Mary Kelly said her soon-to-be-married children were all born in Symmes Hospital and went to St. Agnes School. From left to right are: Kristen, William and Mary C. Kelly. See page 7B for complete details.



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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Police union officials say morale is low in wake of sergeant's suit

MORALE, from page 1A.

"Due to pending litigation, I don't feel it is appropriate to make a comment," he said.

Town Counsel John Maher said he disagrees with the assertion that the lawsuit is having a divisive affect on the police department.

"I really see this as a private matter between Sgt. McNamee and these two patrol officers," he said. "It's really a personal issue between those individuals."

Maher said he conducted the in-

vestigation into Jenkins' claim that he was called a "Gook" by McNamee and said he found nothing to support Jenkins' claim. He pointed out that McNamee took and passed a lie detector test about the alleged incident.

"Sgt. McNamee was extremely enthusiastic about taking it and the fact that he took it was somewhat persuasive," said Maher, who admitted that the test is not always accurate and he can understand the union's advice to Jenkins

not to take the test.

Town Manager Donald Marquis said he did not know enough about the day-to-day operations of the police department to know if the case is divisive, but said he has full confidence in Del Gaizo to handle the matter.

"Gene is a first-class police chief. He'll handle it. I'm sure Gene will handle it properly," he said. "I have full confidence in Gene and I'm sure he'll take care of it."

Officials question bridge work delay

BRIDGE, from page 1A.

"Unless they tell me specifically what's going on, I'm very suspicious about that," Marquis said describing the bridge as a project the state has no reason to delay and as a structure desperately in need of repair.

"The Route 2 bridge is in terrible condition. Not only is it bad for cars but it's bad for pedestrians," he said.

Mogek said that the money from delayed projects is not being used for larger state projects.

Haven said he checked with several sources, including the chief engineer of the Massachusetts office of transportation and construction, and was told that there are no design problems. He

said several people he talked to did not even know the project had been delayed. Marquis did not know it had been delayed until he was contacted by the Advocate.

Haven said that even if the project is delayed he is still confident it will be completed.

On Nov. 20 a group of citizens walked the foot path underneath the bridge and were addressed by police who told them the bridge would be reconstructed by the state and the area would be better lighted. Most of the citizens involved in the informal "crime

walk" were Arlington residents who walk under the bridge to the Alewife T station and commute to work. They complained that the graffiti-ridden bridge offered effective hiding places to would-be muggers.

"The columns have always caused a concern because those are the one area people can use as a hiding spot for people coming in either direction," said Mark McCabe, a member of the East Arlington Good Neighbors' Committee who helped organized the crime walk.

Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 11

Pelice School Council, 3 p.m., Pierce School library, 85 Park Ave. Extension

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Arlington Housing Authority, 7 p.m., administrative office, Winslow Towers, 4 Winslow St.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Hardy School Council, 5 p.m., room 1, Hardy School, 52 Lake St.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Finance Committee Appointing Authority

7 p.m. conference room, Robbins Library, 1 Library Way

Thursday, Jan. 18

Arlington Conservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Rescheduled dates for the School Committee and Redevelopment Board meetings, postponed due to snow earlier this week, were not available at press time.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE REPORT



RESPONSES

Rescue and Fire services responded to 62 calls last week, including 25 rescues, 13 investigations and six fire alarms.

■ On Dec. 4 at 3:44 a.m., an 88-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from a "choking feeling." She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 4 at 10:05 a.m., a 55-year-old man dialed 911 from a pay phone on Broadway and said he was having chest pain that was

radiating down his arm. He was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 5 at 2:02 a.m., a 71-year-old woman on Rawson Road was reported to have difficulty breathing. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 5 at 3:41 p.m., a 48-year-old woman on Massachusetts Avenue was reported to be suffering from a fainting spell. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 2:04 a.m., a one-car accident was reported at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Grafton Street. A 21-year-old man suffered from dizziness and a cut on his head. He was placed in a cervical collar and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes. A 28-year-old man complained of

pain in his knee and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 9:01 a.m., a car accident was reported at the corner of Lake and Randolph streets. A 64-year-old woman complained of pain in her hip and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 1:13 p.m., an 86-year-old woman on Massachusetts Avenue was reported to be suffering from pain in her elbow and hip after falling. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 2:48 p.m., a 22-year-old woman was reported to have pain in her ribs after falling down the stairs. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 4:50 p.m., an 85-year-old man was reported to be having difficulty breathing. He was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 6 at 7:08 p.m., a 29-year-old man on Draper Avenue was reported to be unresponsive and suffering from insular shock. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 7 at 3:09 a.m., a 74-year-old woman on Medford Street was reported to be suffering from chest pains, nausea and difficulty breathing. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 8 at 4:07 a.m., an 88-year-old woman was reported to have been waken up by pain in her abdomen. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 8 at 6:24 a.m., a 73-year-old woman on Hancock Street was reported to be suffering from chest pains and shortness of breath. She was given oxygen and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 9 at 4:32 p.m., a 53-year-old man was reported to have pain in his leg after falling in his driveway on Highland Avenue. His leg was put on ice and he was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 9 at 6:16 p.m., an 82-year-old man on Alpine Terrace was reported to be suffering from weakness, chills, shortness of breath and other flu-like symptoms. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Dec. 10 at 10:45 p.m., an 81-year-old man on Washington Street was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath. He was given oxygen and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

POLICE LOG



ARRESTS

■ On Nov. 21 at 3:52 a.m., a police officer on Massachusetts Avenue near Willow Court checked the license plate of a car that seemed suspicious. The officer found out that the car's registration had been revoked. The driver's license had also been revoked and the 20-year-old Arlington man was arrested.

■ On Nov. 25 at 10:15 p.m., police went to an accident on Park Avenue. One of the drivers, a 43-year-old Arlington man, was arrested for driving under the influence of

alcohol and for running a red light.

■ On Nov. 25 at 6:35 p.m., police were flagged down by a woman on Massachusetts Avenue near School Street. The 33-year-old Dorchester woman said she just got into an argument with her boyfriend and he left her on Massachusetts Avenue and drove away. She wanted police to help her get back home. She gave police her name and said there were no warrants out for her arrest. This aroused police's suspicions and they ran a warrant check on her. She had a warrant for buying and receiving a stolen car and was arrested.

■ On Nov. 26 at 8:20 p.m., a 38-year-old New York man walked into the police station on 112 Mystic St. and turned himself in for a default warrant for a traffic violation.

■ On Nov. 26 at 5:40 p.m., police went to Dartmouth Street for a report of a fight. A 25-year-old Arlington woman said she was hit by a 32-year-old Somerville man and she showed police the bruise on her face. Her residence was in disarray from the fight. The man was found near-by and arrested for assault and battery.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

■ On Nov. 24 at 5 a.m., police were investigating a report of a stolen car on Dudley Street when the car owner, 31, of Arlington said it was stolen by her husband. She said he pushed her aside, punched and kicked her. An emergency restraining order was issued and the 32-year-old man is being sought for assault and battery charges.

■ On Nov. 25 at 8:30 p.m., police went to Stop & Shop on Massachusetts Avenue for a report of a fight. A 15-year-old Arlington boy was treated for a head injury by Armstrong Ambulance. A 52-year-old Arlington man said his daughter called him to pick her up because a car of young males were bothering her. He said he came to get his daughter, approached the car and a fight broke out. The 15-year-old and a 20-year-old alleged the man hit them with a small bat that he took from them. Charges may be filed in court.

THEFT

■ On Nov. 25, the hard top of a 1990 Jeep Wrangler was reported stolen from Park Circle.

Volunteers needed in Arlington schools

Arlington Public Schools are looking for volunteers:

- to work in the school libraries at Thompson, Hardy and Stratton schools.
- to tutor English to adults at the Hardy School.
- to assist staff at the Hardy School with new IBM computers.

■ to help a second grade teacher at Stratton School on Friday mornings.

■ and in other volunteer capacities. For additional information, call Judie Bohn, volunteer coordinator, at 646-1000, extension 3212.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Life behind the plow

FLOWMAN, from page 1A.

Dodge said the hands-on work and long hours helps him put things in perspective for his other job: president of the union of Public Works employees, Local 680 which has 209 members. He said the union work takes up almost all of what's left of his time.

"It's real hard to please everyone," Dodge said of his three years as president.

About 45 minutes into his work on "Route 20," Dodge's work comes to an abrupt stop near the Otton Middle School. He hits something hidden deep beneath

the snow and the upper end of the blade bends over with the sudden frailty of a piece of tin foil.

After getting out and overlooking the damage, Dodge radios that he's coming back to Grove Street for repairs. In the Public Works yard, he steers past a graveyard of blades that have also been fatally wounded by manhole covers, Dumpsters and other traps hidden by the snow. Then he drives past a more neatly lined row of new blades ready to go.

The damaged blade is taken off and given to welders for a diagnosis. A new blade is hooked up and Dodge is back on the road.



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY PATRICK MCGEE
Jim Dodge checks the damage to his blade Monday afternoon. The blade had to be replaced after hitting something on the roadway underneath the snow.

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15 Sherman St., \$243,000, 12/15/95, Jeffrey Z Wolf To Katherine Pak.

CLUB NEWS



AARP holds meeting

The Arlington AARP Chapter No. 1255 will hold a meeting on Friday, Jan. 19, at 1:30 p.m., at First Baptist Church, 819 Mass. Ave.

Prior to the meeting, blood pressure screening is from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Entertainment will be "Joyful Noise" singing trio, brought back due to weather cancellation last month.

No day trip in January, but on Thursday, Feb. 15, the Valentines Day trip to Delaney House, Holyoke is scheduled. The Daytona Beach, Fla. get-away is from Feb. 17 to March 3.

Women's investment club starting soon

The Arlington Women's Investment Club is forming for education and profit. Interested parties may call 646-6731. First meeting is Sunday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Award delayed

The award ceremony for the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park Inc. has been rescheduled for 3 p.m. Friday in the community room at Robbins Library.

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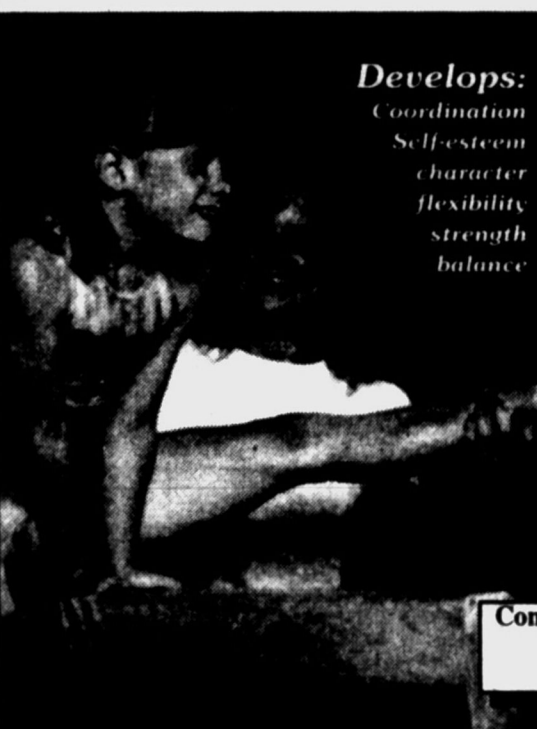
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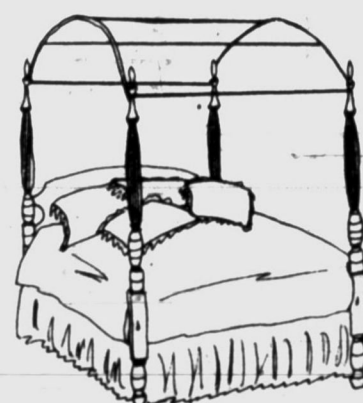
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INSIDE ARLINGTON

'Blizzard of '96' dumps 17 inches of snow

BLIZZARD, from page 1A.

Coleman Road, Irving Street, Lake Street and Peirce Field, Loyalacano said.

"It's very difficult to get to a cut-off valve that's sometimes under four or five feet of snow. We have to search to look for a cut-o valve and then go from there," he said.

Loyalacano said Public Works will probably use up its snow removal budget of \$340,574 by the end of the week. State law permits cities and towns to overspend on that one item of the budget if necessary.

Police Chief Eugene Del Gaizo said police put chains on the cruisers' tires but didn't need to take any other steps to prepare for the storm.

Del Gaizo said the police department is reminding people of their legal responsibility to clear the sidewalks in front of their homes. He said police are not checking all parts of towns but areas that they receive complaints about. He said police will only issue citations to physically-able people who blatantly refuse to shovel the sidewalk after being asked. No citations have been issued yet even though some sidewalks remain buried in snow.

"With the snow the way it is, it's really difficult to ask people to do," he said. "It's almost impossible to move that snow and ice without using a machine."

Caityon said an extra fire engine crew was added to every shift and was sent with the ambulance on every rescue call.

"It was mainly for help and if we had a fire it was going to take longer to connect to the hydrant," said Deputy Fire Chief Richard Maimone. The extra help was needed to help carry stretchers through the snow, he said.

Caityon urged residents to check on their elderly and disabled neighbors.

"Some people need Meals-on-

Wheels and stuff and there may not be a path," he said adding that residents should offer to shovel their driveways and also remember that elderly and disabled residents may not be able to go out to food shop for a longer period of time than most people.

He said firefighters went out four times during the storm to shovel out the fire hydrants and of-

ten had trouble finding them because the snow was so deep.

"The residents know even better where the hydrants are," Caityon said explaining that some residents helped the fire department locate the hydrants.

Marquis urged residents to "adopt-a-hydrant" and shovel out hydrants near their homes so firefighters can get water in case of a

fire.

"That's how they can help the town by shoveling out the hydrants. That's something the residents can do to help their town," he said.

School officials canceled classes on Monday and Tuesday and canceled Tuesday night's School Committee meeting. It has not yet been rescheduled.



Lisa Hays gets through the Blizzard of '96 by cross-country skiing across Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington Center Monday.

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Changes in product liability law have made it easier for consumers to hold manufacturers responsible for injuries caused by their products. No longer is it necessary for those injured by defective products to prove that a manufacturer knew or should have known that its product was designed or manufactured poorly. Strict liability now makes manufacturers legally responsible for injuries caused by their products, even if they were not negligent. Underlying this change in product liability law is the notion that manufacturers are in the best position to prevent defective products from getting to the marketplace. In order to successfully pursue a product liability case, an injured person must prove that there was a defect in the design or manufacture of a product, that the manufacturer did not sufficiently warn consumers of its dangers, that the product caused the injury, and that the consumer was using the product as intended.

According to statistics issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly one-eighth of the population of the U.S. is injured in accidents involving consumer products each year. These injuries are either the fault of the user, the result of pure accident, caused by unforeseeable misuse of the product, or due to defective products. In the latter case, consumers have the right to sue for damages arising from their injuries. If you have been injured due to a defective product, please call us today to schedule an appointment. We are easy to find here in Arlington, and office hours are by appointment. Come to us for personalized or on-one service for your legal needs.

Even if a manufacturer could have predicted that a consumer might misuse its product in the manner that led to injury, the manufacturer might still be held liable.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

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The Least Sellers Can Do

Sellers who are emotionally tied to their homes may want to extol the virtues of their properties to any and all prospective buyers; however, that may not help them sell their homes. In fact, many real estate agents encourage sellers to leave their homes while they are being shown because often their presence only serves to inhibit buyers. And, the less time that buyers spend visualizing themselves and their furnishings in the house, the less chance there is of making a sale. Taken a bit further, it is a good idea for sellers to remove any clutter and personal effects that stand in the way of prospective buyers seeing marketed houses as their own homes. If interiors need painting prior to being put on the market, it is best to use neutral colors. Homes painted with highly personalized custom colors tend to identify the house with the present owner, instead of drawing the interest of a future owner. When selling a house, less is likely to be more.

This week's article provides sellers with several helpful hints on how to present their homes in the best possible light to prospective buyers. DuPONT REAL ESTATE will provide you with the information and creative recommendations you need to make your home as appealing as possible. Through aggressive marketing strategies such as open houses, ads in local papers, and the Multiple Listing Service, we'll announce the availability of your home to the widest possible audience and sell your home quickly. Call us at 648-6630 if we can assist you. We are conveniently located at 112 Massachusetts Ave.

HINT: If you are selling a house with a garage, get rid of the accumulated belongings that may have prevented you from parking your car(s) in it, and show its spacious potential to buyers.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

BUSINESS WRAPUP

Local Realtors win regional sales awards

Two agents with Bowes Realtors/Better Homes and Gardens recently accepted awards from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board's Residential Association of Realtors division.

Lauren Duerr was named "Rookie of The Year." The award

recognizes an agent, in their first year, who achieves sales volume of more than \$1 million. Duerr's first year produced sales volume in excess of \$2 million.

Deurr was one of only 13 recipients in the entire board's jurisdiction and the only recipient in the Arlington, Belmont, Lexington area.

Steve McKenna was one of 28 agents in the Greater Boston Board area to earn a place in the highest category of sales achievement; sales volume of more than \$5 million with sales totaling more than \$8 million. He was the only agent in Arlington to receive the award.

Sameiro graduates from Realtor Institute

Dave Sameiro of RE/MAX Peak Performance in Arlington has successfully completed a course at the Realtor Institute of Massachusetts.

The association sponsors institutes throughout the year for realtors and realtor-associates as part of its continuing education program. Upon completion of six courses, participants receive the nationally recognized designation "GRI," which stands for graduate Realtor Institute.



Lauren Duerr



Steve McKenna

HEALTH NOTES



Geriatric assessment program begins

The Medical Center at Symmes has recently initiated a Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Program which focuses on elderly people who are experiencing difficulty maintaining their usual lifestyle. Geriatrics is a branch of medicine that focuses on the aging process and health problems of those over the age of 65.

Our population is aging at a rapid rate. The population over the age of 85 is now the fastest growing population in the United States. Western medicine has, until recently, not looked closely at the aging process and its associated problems.

Memory loss, frequent falls, and confusion may be more common among older adults, but are not simply to be accepted as the norm, according to Robert Carey, M.D., geriatric specialist at The Medical Center at Symmes. "Often, these symptoms are indicative of problems that can be treated."

Individuals who experience frequent falls, incontinence, memory

loss, depression, take multiple medications, or have multiple health problems may benefit from the Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Program. Those who feel they may benefit from such an assessment should contact their physician.

Blood pressure check at local pharmacy

A blood pressure screening is offered every Wednesday, from noon to 3 p.m., at Menotomy Pharmacy, 1332 Mass. Ave., Arlington. Lorraine Jennings, L.P.N., of Health Force in Arlington, will be available to discuss health care needs.

Infant and child CPR

Learn how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children through an American Red Cross course to be held Jan. 22 and 29, from 6:16 to 10 p.m. at The Medical Center at Symmes, Arlington. This course also includes information on how to prevent injuries in infants and children in and around the home and play areas. Cost is \$47. Registration required. Call 375-0700, Ext. 221.

Gastroenterologist to give research update

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America group will have an education meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Winchester Hospital board room, 41 Highland Ave., Winchester.

A gastroenterologist, William Vanneman, M.D., will give a research update. The meeting is free. For more information call Peg Dwyer, R.N. at 756-2040.

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You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. For more information or additional meeting times, call 1-800-991-9555.

U.S. Healthcare Medicare meetings will be held at these locations:

Everett
Everett Library
(Frederick E. Parlan)
Lower Level
Thursday, January 18, 10:00 am

Winchester
Winchester Hospital
41 Highland Avenue
Wednesday, January 17, 10:00 am
Wednesday, January 24, 2:00 pm

Woburn
Baldwin Park II
7 Alfred Street
Thursday, January 11, 2:00 pm

Arlington
The Medical Center at Symmes
Hospital Road
Friday, January 12, 10:00 am



Medford
Medford Senior Center
101 Riverside Drive
Thursday, January 11, 1:00 pm

West Medford Community Center
(The School Age Program Building)
111 Arlington Street
Tuesday, January 16, 10:00 am

Malden
Irish/American Club
177 West Street
Thursday, January 11, 10:00 am
Friday, January 26, 10:00 am

Anthony's
105 Canal Street
Tuesday, January 16, 2:00 pm

Watertown
Union Market Station
17 Nichols Street (off Arlington Street, between Routes 16 & 20)
Wednesday, January 17, 9:30 am

Open to Medicare-eligible individuals living in the Massachusetts service area who have Federal Medicare Parts A and B or Part B only. U.S. Healthcare Medicare has continuous open enrollment.

*\$39 is the monthly plan premium for the U.S. Healthcare Medicare 10 Plan option, with prescription benefits, in the Massachusetts service area. **\$0 is the monthly premium for the Medicare 10 Plan option, without prescription benefits, in the Massachusetts service area. ***\$5 is the copay for primary physician visits under the U.S. Healthcare Medicare 5 Plan option in the Massachusetts service area. Current U.S. Healthcare members see your member handbook for specific exclusions, limitations and copayments. A federally qualified HMO with a Medicare contract. ©1996 U.S. Healthcare, Inc.

ROLL CALL

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL
Volume 23-Report No. 1
Massachusetts House and Senate
Jan. 5, 1996

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. The 1995 legislative session ended last week at midnight on Tuesday and the 1996 session convened on Wednesday. Senator Bill Bulger (D-Boston) gave up his Senate seat and the Senate presidency to take a new job as president of the University of Massachusetts. The Senate elected Sen. Tom Birmingham (D-Chelsea) to the Senate's top spot.

As the 1996 session gets under way, BEACON HILL ROLL CALL continues its review on legislation approved on roll call votes by both branches in 1995 and signed into law by Gov. Weld or passed over his veto. Also included in this week's report is the Senate roll call vote on election of a new Senate president. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE (S 1853) — House 142-0, Senate 29-0, approved and Gov. Weld signed a measure revising the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights. The proposal expands the rights of victims and includes provisions allowing victims to give impact statements prior to sentencing in many more cases rather than just felony and vehicular homicide ones. It also allows victims to be present in the courtroom, along with all family members during all public proceedings and to confer with prosecutors at various stages of the case.

A Yes vote is for the bill.
Rep. Jim Marzilli voted yes.
Rep. Anne M. Paulsen voted yes.
Sen. Robert Havern voted yes.

SICK LEAVE BANK (S 1837) — House 117-26, Senate 33-5, override Gov. Weld's veto and approved a bill establishing a sick leave bank for executive branch state employees. The measure allows employees to donate unused, sick, personal or vacation leave time to a sick leave bank and then allows any donor with an extended illness who has exhausted his own leave time to use up to 120 of the bank's days in any two-year period.

A Yes vote is for the sick leave banks. A No vote is against the sick leave banks.

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

SEWER PROJECTS (H 5351) — House 139-0, Senate 34-0, approved and the governor signed a bill authorizing the state to issue \$11 million in bonds and transfer the \$11 million to the state's Water Pollution Abatement Revolving Fund. The money will be used to generate a \$48 million federal grant under the Federal Clean Water Act. The state's revolving fund is used to allow the state to grant reduced interest loans to communities for the repair and construction of wastewater treatment facilities.

A Yes vote is for the bill.
Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

MASS MARITIME (H 5584) — House 143-0, Senate 36-0, approved and

Gov. Weld signed a \$5.2 million bond package for repairs at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The funding will be used to make emergency repairs and many renovations at the Academy.

A Yes vote is for the \$5.2 million package.

Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

SINGLE SALES FACTOR (H 5667) — House 129-20, Senate 31-7, approved and Gov. Weld signed the bill establishing the "single sales" factor tax system which taxes manufacturers only on their in-state sales. The tax break takes effect in January for defense companies and is phased in over five years for other manufacturers.

A Yes vote is for the tax cut. A No vote is against the tax cut.

Marzilli voted no.
Paulsen voted no.
Havern voted yes.

TRIAL COURT TECHNOLOGY (H 5462) — House 150-0, Senate 38-0, approved and Gov. Weld signed a bond package allowing the state to borrow \$75 million to purchase new computer technology for the state's Trial Court. The new computer systems are designed to allow a clear and speedy flow of information between the court, law enforcement agencies and the public.

A Yes vote is for the bill.
Marzilli voted yes.
Paulsen voted yes.
Havern voted yes.

NEW SENATE PRESIDENT — Senate 30-10, elected Sen. Tom Birmingham (D-Chelsea) as Senate president to replace Bill Bulger (D-Boston) who resigned to take a new job as president of the University of Massachusetts. The vote was strictly along party lines with the chamber's 30 Democrats voting for Birmingham and 10 Republicans voting for Sen. Brian Lees (R-East

Longmeadow).

A "B" vote is for Birmingham, the Democrat. An "L" vote is for Lees, the Republican.

Havern voted B.

Coming Up on Beacon Hill

CHILD ABUSE (H 5704) — The Human Services Committee recently held a hearing on a late-filed bill requiring optometrists to report suspected abuse of any child under 18 if the optometrist has reasonable cause to believe the child is suffering physical or emotional injury from abuse or neglect. The proposal adds optometrists to the current list of required reporters who are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 if they fail to make the report or knowingly file a frivolous report. Sponsored by Rep. Douglas Stoddard (R-Natick).

TURNPIKE TOWING (H 4516) — The House has given initial approval to a bill requiring the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to allow motorists to use any towing service to tow their disabled cars on the turnpike. Current law requires motorists to use a towing company designated by turnpike officials. Sponsored by Representatives Walter DeFilippi (R-West Springfield), Mary Jeanette Murray (R-Cohasset) and Robert Hawke (R-Gardner) and Sen. Michael Knapik (R-Westfield).

LEFTOVER WINE (S 412) — The Senate has yet to take further action after giving initial approval to a proposal allowing restaurant customers to keep and take home the remainder of any bottles wine purchased and not fully consumed at a meal. Sponsored by Sen. Louis Bertonazzi (D-Milford).

SEXUAL OFFENDERS (H 2683) — The House has taken no further action since giving an initial okay to legis-

lation requiring prison officials to notify local police five days before the release of any sexual offender into that local community. The proposal requires any sex offender to register with local police and provide them with his fingerprints, blood and saliva samples and a photograph. Sponsored by Rep. Edward Teague (R-Yarmouth).

MEDICAL PAROLE (H 2623) — A bill allowing terminally ill prisoners with six months or more to live to be paroled early if they pose no threat to society, has been stuck in the House Ways and Means Committee since August. The proposal, approved by the Senate in July, does not apply to first degree murderers. Sponsored by Sen. James Jajuga (D-Methuen) and Representatives Paul Caron (D-Springfield), Barbara Gray (D-Framingham) and Emile Goguen (D-Fitchburg).

HOW LONG WAS THIS WEEK'S SESSION?

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL tracks the length of each week's legislative session. During the week of Jan. 1-5, the House met for a total of one hour and 49 minutes, while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 12 minutes.

Monday, Jan. 1 — NO HOUSE session/NO SENATE session.

Tuesday, Jan. 2 — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 11:10 a.m. SENATE convened at 11:10 a.m.; adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 3 — HOUSE convened at 11:05 a.m.; adjourned at 12:37 p.m. SENATE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 4 — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 11:07 a.m. SENATE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 5 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION

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The Arlington Advocate

COMMENT



The
Birthplace
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Samuel
Wilson

Editorial

Weather

As the snow piles up on roadsides and grows into mountains next to parking lots, we see the best and worst sides of people emerge. There are the shoppers who nearly knock you over in the supermarket, using their carts as rolling roadblocks as they jockey for better position in their race for the checkout lanes. Then there are the passersby, neighbors and strangers who join forces to help push motorists out of parking spaces.

There are the plow-enhanced pickup trucks that fly down snowy streets, splattering everyone on the sidewalk and bullying drivers traveling at safe speeds. Then there are the kids who shovel the walkways of elderly neighbors.

This weather — and there's more to come — offers us a chance to get out and help others. Get groceries for a neighbor. Shovel out a fire hydrant. Do the things that give Arlington the "small town" reputation it works so hard to protect.

ABC report is anti-business

By Zavan Mazmanian

The recent business report and its appendix, coverage of which appeared in the Advocate, was certainly a disturbing anti-business statement. Nothing concrete in it provided any advice on how to create a pro-business environment. Rather, it seemed to "rubber stamp" the anti-business bias of the Redevelopment Board and its director.

If a pro-business environment was the focus of this report, then the idea of narrowing Massachusetts Avenue is preposterous. Narrowing the Avenue would choke off the flow of traffic, making access to many businesses much more difficult. It does not take much imagination to visualize an avenue with middle lanes at intersections designed to make left turns; these left turn lanes at intersections would greatly expedite the flow of traffic. Was the advice in the report designed to choke traffic or to expedite its flow?

The idea of widening sidewalks may have been good advice in the trolley car era, but in the age of automobiles, such advice is not practical. Pedestrian traffic flow is at a minimum in this age of the automobile. Sidewalks are necessary, but not any wider than they are now.

The idea of attracting tourists to Arlington as a means of bringing people into Arlington so as to increase business activity may sound good on paper, but is impractical as a means of creating a better business climate. One only has to look at the historic house associated with George Washington, including some of his artifacts, in Lexington. It is closed most of the time and does not generate tourist traffic even though it is located in Lexington with its great historic reputation. What chance then that there would be any traffic flow to Arlington brought on by interest in Arlington's "historic sites"? Did any serious survey or acquisition of facts lead to the suggestion of promoting historic sites, or was it a top-of-the-head, subjective piece of speculation.

The appendix, reported several weeks later in the Advocate, says what any thinking Arlington resident already realizes. There does not need to be a paid study to tell Arlington's citizens where there can be business growth. What is needed is a statement on how to

achieve that growth. What should be done to bring about that growth? What should be done so that Arlington can realize its business potential? How does one change the perception of Arlington as an anti-business town? These are questions that the study should have addressed. In view of the fact that that was not done, the report can be considered worthless and a waste of precious taxpayer's money.

What were the circumstances for commissioning the report? What was the consultant told was the purpose of the report? Who hired this particular consultant? Was the consultant "selected" carefully so as to reinforce the negative bias that the redevelopment board has toward business? These questions need to be answered.

The time has come for a full scale airing of the anti-business climate that surrounds Arlington. There is no question that an anti-business bias colors the activities of the Redevelopment Board. Does the town manager support the negative business outlook of the Redevelopment Board? Where does each selectman, individually as well as a group, stand in regards to the activities of the Redevelopment Board. With the coming election, each candidate for selectman should take a stand on the purpose and function of the Redevelopment Board. Why does the Board for Redevelopment and Planning exist? Its purpose must be well defined. Arlington's economic situation, and the public's awareness of a strong anti-business climate surrounding the town, should be subject to scrutiny. What can be done to change that perception? It may be time for a complete shake-up of the Redevelopment Board, as well as providing it with new leadership. The slogan for the next town meeting should be: revenue first; then expenditures.

My own view of a Board of Redevelopment and Planning is that it should focus on economic development. The main thrust of their activities should add to the tax base. Ripping up perfectly good concrete sidewalks in order to lay down brick sidewalks is not my idea of economic development.

(Mazmanian is a lifelong resident of Arlington.)



"YOU'RE RIGHT, MRS. STEVENS... ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW ALL OF THIS SNOW PILED UP ON THE WALKWAY JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO REPAIR IT?"

Finding her family on New Year's Day

LIFE AND ALL THAT

TERRY MAROTTA



"I'll read a while until they get done with the supper trays," I thought, "then run up and see how she's doing."

Twenty minutes later I was deep in my book, when a family of three settled into a nearby booth: a mother in her 80s, her balding son in his 50s and his wife of similar vintage. Together they cooed over the chicken pies, jollied the waitress and exchanged family news. The mom told how lately her pearls were mistaken for real.

"\$3.98 at CVS!" she crowed. Her son spoke about a lady, 93. "I'll never live that long," said the younger woman. "Of course you will, dear," soothed her mother in-law automatically.

Then they all turned to the topic of her couple's daughter who, with a baby not yet a year old, had announced that she and her husband were trying for a second.

"What's the rush?" they asked one another, hands open. "My Mom had three in diapers when Dad got home from the War — and then they started on the fourth!" "My!" said the elder lady. "If he was my husband, I would have closed the window on him," the younger woman added. They all smiled at this joke and tucked into their burgers.

Judging supper at the Rehab to be past, I paid for my coffee and drove on over to find my own mom in-law with three bright-eyed roommates, all looking in their wheelchairs incongruously like a team of kids in go-carts. We were all chatting, when a man with wavy hair strolled into the room, a guitar slung over his shoulder and a violin tucked under one arm.

"Good evening, ladies," he said pleasantly. "I'd like to play and sing for you. Any requests?"

A stunned silence opened up. "True Love?" he suggested and played guitar chords and sang in a clear tenor voice.

Shyly, the ladies applauded. Then we asked for "Shenandoah" with its plaintive homesick words. "How about that fiddle?" one of us asked. "Can you play 'Galway Bay' on it?" a lady with blue eyes wondered. He played it, the violin sounding with pure beseeching beauty, then did "The Wild Colonial Boy," also by request, and ended with a rousing jig. When he got done, one lady said, "You're the best thing that's happened since I came her." And it seemed she spoke for all of us.

On New Year's morning, when I arose, I thought to take the day and drive it where I wanted. Instead, the road curved and the day took me — past the loving talk of one family and straight into the timeless place where live music throws open the soul's windows and sets even the frailest toes to tapping.

Terry Marotta's E-mail address is tmarotta@interramp.com

Letters to the Editor

Good Neighbor: Laite critic was off base

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Robin Dratch's comments about George Laite which appeared in the Advocate a few weeks ago.

I have been an active member of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee (EAGNC) since its beginning nearly 10 years ago. I am also the secretary to the committee. And in that capacity, I have been contacted by many members who have asked me to set the record straight regarding George Laite's involvement with the Democratic Town Committee and the EAGNC.

Ms. Dratch's comments concerning George Laite are totally off the mark!

If Ms. Dratch had taken the time to speak with Laite before writing her letter, she would have gotten her facts correct.

George Laite never stated or suggested to anyone that his involvement with the Democratic Town Committee had anything to do with the EAGNC.

Mr. Laite has never represented himself as speaking for the members of the EAGNC while working to change the direction of the local Democratic Party. In fact, any statement or suggestion that Mr. Laite has mixed "party politics" with his work for Arlington citizens as the chairman of the EAGNC, is untrue.

As Ms. Dratch well knows, the EAGNC is first and foremost a citizens organization which works for

the improvement of our neighborhoods. The EAGNC is not connected to any political party or elected official.

Speaking for many members of the committee, we re-invite Ms. Dratch to attend meetings of the Good Neighbor Committee and we encourage her to work with us for the good of all.

Margaret D'Addario
Fairmont Street

More Laite support

To the editor:

Recently, the Advocate printed a letter from Robin Dratch concerning the Democratic Party and George Laite, the chairman of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee. I disagree with Ms. Dratch's opinions.

George Laite has never mixed "party politics" with his volunteer work on behalf of the citizens of Arlington as the head of the Good Neighbor Committee.

In fact, on many occasions, Mr. Laite has stated that the Good Neighbor Committee is not tied to any politician or political party. It's just the opposite. The Good Neighbor committee stands up for and represents the citizens of our community — free of any partisan consideration.

Ms. Dratch stated that Laite does not "speak for all in our neighborhoods." I will say — and my neighbors agree — that George Laite speaks for most of us, if not all!

Ms. Dratch did not complain about Mr. Laite's leadership when

she formerly had an apartment on Henderson Street, in the house which was slated to be next door to a McDonald's drive-through restaurant.

If Mr. Laite had not put his reputation and name on the line on behalf of me and my neighbors, the Golden Arches would be across from my house on Mass. Ave., as the gateway to the Town of Arlington.

I stand behind Mr. Laite and thank him for speaking up for us, when no one else would.

Melcom Samoorian
Massachusetts Avenue

Officer wanted to take polygraph test

To the editor:

In order to clarify any misconception in your recent article "Sergeant sues cops" (Advocate, Dec. 28) regarding the use of polygraph tests, Officer Jenkins did desire to take such a test, but was advised by the Patrolman's Association to decline. It has been the long-standing policy of our association (as well as other professional organizations) to forego any such tests since their subjective nature renders them not fully reliable.

Mr. Donald McNamee, counsel for his brother David, is fully aware of this policy since he served as counsel for the Arlington Patrolman's Association for a 10-year-period (from the mid '70s to

the mid '80s) and was a strong advocate of this policy during that time.

Arthur Kelley
President
Arlington Police Patrolman Association

THANK YOU

Holiday thanks

To the editor:

The residents and staff at Park Avenue Nursing, Convalescent and Retirement Home would like to thank the following groups and individuals for making the holidays joyous for our residents: The Arlington Garden Club, Armstrong Ambulance Co., The Arlington Girl Scouts, The Dallin School Brownies, St. James C.C.D., The Otton School, The Colbert Family, The Protestant Guild for the Blind, The Cornerstone Baptist Church, St. James Church and the Church of Our Savior.

We very much appreciate the continued volunteer services of Anita LePore, Tom Callan, Kathleen Donnelon, Richard Spinale, Gloria Comforte, Aggie Baker, Carole Pietrantoni, Gladys Snyder and Beulah Curtis. To all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Carole Fagan
Activities Director

THANK YOU, see page 9A.

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COMMENT

No more 'easy' tax cuts on Hill

By Mark Leccese

There will be no more "easy" tax cuts on Beacon Hill.

Governor and U.S. Senate candidate William Weld often says he "never met a tax cut I didn't like," and he's gained a lot of political capital from the 11 personal and business tax cuts the Legislature has approved and Weld has signed since he became governor.

Weld is looking for more tax cuts this year particularly, the year he faces U.S. Senator John Kerry is what will be a nasty political tangle.

As of this week he has a new obstacle to reckon with, and it is a formidable obstacle: a new Senate president.

In Boston, as in Washington, the leaders of the House and Senate wield a tremendous amount of power over the agenda, and the power to set the agenda is the most important power in politics.

Whoever is serving as Speaker and the House and Senate President likes to remind you that, well, after all, they only have one vote, and the members of their bodies all have their own opinions and beliefs, and so on and so forth.

But it's up to the Speaker and the President which bills come up for a vote. And when the House and Senate each pass different versions of the same bill, a six-member conference committee is named to resolve the differences and bring a compromise bill back to the floor of the Legislature.

Conference committees are as common as snow plows in January on Beacon Hill (and as powerful), but despite the ceremony that surrounds the naming of conference committees, there is always only one conference committee that really matters: the President and the Speaker.

One of the most important developments of the last five years on Beacon Hill, is, oddly, one of the least remarked-upon: the weekly meeting of the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and other legislative leaders.

As Speaker of the House Charles Flaherty points out, that weekly meeting has brought a kind of we're-in-this-together attitude and civility to Beacon Hill that is so obviously now lacking on Capitol Hill in Washington. It's hard to really rip another person when you're going to have to sit across the table from him in a few days.

It's in that meeting, too, where the most power leaders in the state find out their differences, and Weld — somewhat wistfully — said last week he found himself more often in agreement with former Senate President William Bulger than he does with Speaker Flaherty.

And Birmingham more often agrees with Flaherty on issues than he does with Weld.

Now, as Weld looks toward the

Legislature, he sees not just one but two leaders firmly committed to the belief there are some things that government should do to benefit society precisely because only government can do them — guaranteeing a good education for every child, even the ones who aren't rich, for example.

Just listen to how the state's leaders talk about government. Flaherty and Birmingham talk about schools.

Weld talks about the Registry. That's a fundamental difference in philosophy, and it matters.

Last week, a special commission unveiled a plan to help provide far more child care and early education, even for middle class parents, than is now available. It will cost money.

Birmingham poses this as a fundamental question of government: Do you want child care or do you want tax cuts? You can't have both.

With Weld offering up another smorgasbord of election-year tax cuts, that's a question that going to come up frequently and about various issues on Beacon Hill in the coming year.

They say the governor proposes and the legislature disposes.

A legislature led by Flaherty and Birmingham may, by the end of the year, have disposed of some of Weld's fondest hopes.

(Mark Leccese is Statehouse bureau chief for Community Newspaper Company.)

THANK YOU

THANK YOU, from page 8A.

Can drive successful

To the editor:

On behalf of the Peirce School P.T.O. I would like to thank the students, parents, and neighbors who participated in our December Can and Bottle Drive. Through their efforts, the P.T.O. raised \$307.50, which was donated to the Arlington Food Pantry on behalf of the Peirce School. Once again, our school demonstrated its Peirce Pride!

Judi Paradis

Can and Bottle Drive Coordinator

Comfort in grief

To the editor:

The people who reached out to us at the death of our beloved granddaughter Jessica were a great comfort. Thank you all and God bless.

Russ and Kay Keeler

Winchester Road
Arlington

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RECYCLE
this newspaper

Program to honor McAuliffe's legacy

Community Newspaper Company, publisher of the Middlesex News, has joined Framingham State College (FSC) to help promote "Christa's Teachers," in honor of FSC alumna and America's first teacher-astronaut Christa Corrigan McAuliffe.

"Christa's Teachers" is part of CHRISTA'S LEGACY, developed by Framingham State College to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Challenger mission.

People are asked to nominate their own "Christa's Teacher" by explaining in a few paragraphs why a particular teacher made a difference to their lives.

"This partnership is a direct re-

sult of the long-standing relationship we have enjoyed with Framingham State College," said Asa Cole, publisher of Middlesex Community Newspapers. "We want to work with the college to bring a renewed awareness to teachers and their accomplishments, as Christa did."

For more information about "Christa's Teachers" and how to honor your favorite teacher, contact the McAuliffe Center at Framingham State College, 100 State St., Framingham, MA 01701. Telephone (508) 626-4056; fax (508) 626-4059; or e-mail christa@frs.mass.edu.

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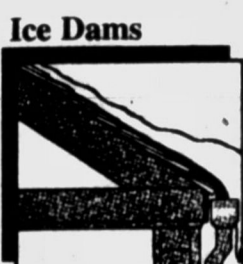
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